



News for Immediate Release

June 20, 2011

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Moderate Feather River Flow Increases in Oroville This Week Will Benefit Fish

OROVILLE -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) tonight will increase flows in the Feather River through the City of Oroville to benefit Spring-run Chinook salmon. Flows will rise from 600 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 2,500 cfs by sunrise Tuesday.

These increased flows may continue through the end of June, raising the river level from one to three feet, depending upon the sections of the river. This increase will not affect water deliveries, or the total flow of the Feather River downstream of the Afterbay Outlet.

Purpose of the increased flows is to attract additional Spring-run Chinook salmon to the Feather River Fish Hatchery. There they can be tagged and released back to the river. Spring-run-Chinook are listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

The tags are useful in identifying salmon in September when the hatchery fish ladder is re-opened and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), which operates the hatchery, conducts its spawning activities. The tags help assure that Spring-returning Chinook salmon are spawned as a separate group and not mixed in with Fall-returning Chinook salmon, which differ genetically from Spring-run salmon.

Salmon fishing on the Feather River is closed all year, except for the section of the river from 1,000 feet below the Afterbay Outlet to the mouth of the Feather River. This section is open from July 16 through December 11 for salmon fishing.

Anglers should refer to DFG fishing regulations for the complete description of dates, fish species and fishing seasons for the Feather River. These regulations can be viewed online at the DFG website: www.dfg.ca.gov

-30-

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. Contact the DWR Public Affairs Office for more information about DWR's water activities